March Comes in Like a Lion

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY UMINO CHIKA
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SCANLATED BY BE WITH YOU SCANS (2012/09)
#BWYS@IRC.IRCHIGHWAY.NET
BWYS.ORG

RAW PURCHASED & SCANNED BY MARIS
TRANSLATED BY KEWL0210
CLEANED & TYPESET BY CHARA
QC BY MARIS

Chapter 27

Beyond the Door

SHE'S JUST A PAIN IN THE ASS

I know

that was an attempt to provoke me.

But—

I've got no choice.

Shimada Kai 8th dan.
-Length of reign in
A-class, 5 years-

First of all is today.

I've gathered
up and looked
at tons of his
kifu but

it's odd...

If I don't win today, nothing gets started.

There's nothing to grasp onto.

I can't find any special
characteristics-

Strategies he's good at
or things he's bad at,

SIGN: CHILDREN'S SHOGI CLASSROOM

子供将棋教室

I saw him when he came as a lecturer for a children's shogi tournament when I was in elementary school.

He was terribly thin and very tall... a quiet person.

I'd been winning and progressing to the later rounds, so I could only see him from far away. He didn't leave much of an impression on me, though...

I've never played against him before.

—But, that's right.

Rather than playing to "win" shogi,

he's a person who plays refusing to "lose" shogi.

My games with those kinds of people get really long.

I'm not good with them...

But—

GOTOU GAVE IT TO ME NOT LONG AGO.

Be calm...

I musn't get nervous.

He'll latch onto that.

BWY'S NOTE: AI YAGURA IS WHEN BOTH PLAYERS FORM A YAGURA CASTLE, CREATING A STRONG DEFENSE AROUND THE KING'S HEAD.

In the match, I got black, and made an Ai-Yagura Enclosure.

I cannot lose here.

No matter what.

SFX: SU... (SLIDE...)

Here we go.

Now, the war begins.

It's been all standard play so far.

.....

Then—

SFX: PACHI (TAP)

R-5b

Is he planning to defend it all off...?

☖ B-7c

☗ P-5e

☖ P-5e

☗ S-5e

SFX: SU (SLIDE)

So he's planning to bring his Rook around?

Then

I will, too.

He pulled the trigger...

ヒョイ

SFX: HYOI (LIFT)

kind of hard to make moves...

It's getting

.....

.....

SFX: PACHI (TAP)

Hm?

Hold on a second...

This is weird.

At times like this...

you firmly enclose the King...

パチ

SFX: PACHI (TAP)

SFX: SU... (SLIDE...)

when did I start defending?

–So, I was supposed to be attacking.

SFX: PO (PAT)

How did it get this bad?

What is this...?

SFX: BA (WHOOSH)

Shit.

Do I not... have any attack moves left...?!

I didn't... make any mistakes. I'm sure I didn't,

so why? How did this become so severe?!

SFX: DONN (THUD)

SFX: BASHI (WHOOSH)

SO YOU FINALLY LOOKED THIS WAY, HUH?
GEEZ...

BWYS NOTE: BEING UNDER THE SAME MASTER, NIKAIDOU CALLS SHIMADA "ANIJA", A TRADITIONAL TERM FOR AN OLDER BROTHER. SHIMADA CALLS NIKAIDOU "BOU", MEANING "BOY".

SFX: GAAAA..... (SLIDE....)

.....

SFX: GUI (GRAB)

AH,

ANIJA!

DIDN'T YOU PROMISE TO "NOT PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD"?

TO BOTH MASTER AND I?

AND IN EXCHANGE WE SAID "WE WON'T TELL ANYBODY", REMEMBER?

YOU STILL HAVE ONE, DON'T YOU?

AND YOUR FEVER?

YOU NEED TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF... YOUR ADVANCE-MENT DEPENDS ON IT!!

YOU DON'T HAVE A MATCH TODAY, RIGHT?

WHY DID YOU COME HERE, BOU?

SORRY, ANIJA.

SFX: GOHOSO.. (COUGH..)

—SO, WHAT IS IT, BOU?

I WAS JUST SURPRISED YOU WERE HERE...

SORRY FOR SUDDENLY PRESSING YOU LIKE THAT...

MM.

WELL,

ME, TOO.

DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TELL ME?

I'LL GO HOME AND LIE DOWN SOON.

YEAH.

SORRY...

I WANT YOU TO KNOCK KIRIYAMA'S BRAINS OUT.

YES.

THE THING IS,

ANIJA,

SFX: PORI.. (CRUNCH..)

I was wondering what he was gonna say. And it was

That Bou...

something troublesome again...

OKAY,

...THEN.

SHALL WE CONTINUE?

Chapter 27 end